

ASISA Academy Newsflash – January 2023

Dear Stakeholder

We kick off every year by celebrating the achievements of delegates who successfully completed our UCT-endorsed short courses and graduates who successfully completed their internships in the previous year. This year's graduation ceremonies in Cape Town and Johannesburg were extra special because we were able to host our graduates at physical events for the first time since 2020. These were also our largest graduations to date with 150 graduates receiving certificates. In February, we will host smaller graduation ceremonies for our interns who have successfully completed their Independent Financial Advisor (IFA) internships in Bloemfontein, Durban, East London and Gqeberha.

Since the ASISA Academy's inception in 2007, more than 14 000 delegates have participated in our learning programmes, with the number of delegates per year growing rapidly.

The success of the ASISA Academy depends on the ongoing support from ASISA members as well as many other stakeholders, and I would like to thank all of you for the valuable role you play in enabling this unique and highly effective learning environment.



Pictures captured at the ASISA Academy Annual Graduation ceremony in Cape Town.



Pictures captured at the ASISA Academy Annual Graduation ceremony in Johannesburg.

More graduation pictures are available on the ASISA Academy [website](#).

GRADUATE PROGRAMMES

IFA Internship

Our eighth group of interns will start their journey with the ASISA Academy [IFA Internship](#) on 15 February when the two-week work readiness course gets underway in Cape Town, Johannesburg and Durban.

On completion of the work readiness course, the interns will enter the world of the formal workplace at host IFA practices in Bloemfontein, Cape Town, Durban, East London, Gqeberha and Johannesburg.

Our current IFA internship is in its final month, and we are pleased to see that a number of interns have already been offered permanent positions by their host practices.

The IFA Internship, funded by a number of ASISA members, was launched in 2016 with the aim of helping young Black graduates interested in pursuing a career in financial planning with the opportunity to intern with established IFA practices for 12 months.

IMACS@TSiBA Internship

Preparations are underway for the start of the 2023/24 [IMACS@TSiBA](#) Internship in July this year. This will be our 13th intake of students from TSiBA, a Cape Town-based not-for-profit higher education institution.

Together with TSiBA, we identify second-year Bachelor in Business Administration (BBA) students interested in building careers in the savings and investment industry. Students are required to participate in the IMACS@TSiBA learning programme over 12 months while completing their BBA degrees. Those who successfully complete all their courses proceed to intern at their sponsors.

Sponsors of this internship are not only creating employment opportunities for young talent, but they are also proactively transforming our industry one intern at a time. Thus far, we have been able to secure five sponsors for this year's internship, and I would like to thank the following companies for their commitment to transforming our industry by creating opportunities for deserving black students:

- Taquanta Asset Managers
- Prescient Fund Services
- Intembeko Investment Administrators
- Foundation Family Wealth
- Coronation Fund Managers

We urge more ASISA members to sign up and enable us to provide a bigger group of students with the opportunity to participate. ASISA members in a position to participate are encouraged to sign up [here](#).

Financial Markets Practitioner Learnership

The second instalment of the [Financial Markets Practitioner \(FMP\) Learnership](#) starts in March this year. We have had a fantastic response from employers who have enrolled 22 delegates. This Fasset-registered NQF Level 7 learnership provides a learning pathway to a higher qualification, such as an honours degree or a NQF level 8 post graduate diploma. The learnership also qualifies for categories B and D on the B-BBEE Learning Programme Matrix for scoring skills development points.

The delegates participating in our inaugural FMP Learnership will conclude their classroom sessions this month and write their external exam in April.



Delegates who are currently participating in our FMP Learnership.

Fezeka Graduate Programme

Early in December, we launched an exciting new industry collaboration aimed at helping the South African asset management industry improve the representation of Black women on investment teams.

The brainchild of Michael Arbutnot, CEO of Catalyst Fund Managers, the Fezeka Graduate Programme will be delivered by the ASISA Academy, and business consultancy, Joint Prosperity.

The investment management companies supporting Fezeka are: Aeon Investment Management, Anchor Stockbrokers, Catalyst Fund Managers, Counterpoint Asset Management, Foord Asset Management, Gradidge Mahura Investments, Mazi Asset Management, Meago Trading, Mentenova Consultants and Actuaries, Old Mutual Multi Managers, Perpetua Investment Managers, PIC, PPS Investments, Sanlam Investment Management, SBG Securities, Stanlib, and Terebinth Capital.

The programme kicks off on Monday, 6 February, with an orientation week hosted by Joint Prosperity. The eight participating Black female graduates will then start the first of three work rotations at their respective host employers. Over a period of 15 months, the graduates will work at host companies, receiving competitive remuneration while at the same time participating in the ASISA Academy's [FMP Learnership](#).

For a more detailed overview of the Fezeka programme, we invite you to read this informative [article](#) published by Citywire. (Citywire is a credible news portal, and no subscription is required, just a registration.)



The eight graduates who will be participating in the Fezeka Graduate Programme.

COURSES PRESENTED IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY

- Following the successful delivery in November of the [UCT CIS Short Course](#) as a bespoke course for First National Bank (FNB) employees, we presented the [UCT IMACS Short Course](#) to FNB employees in Johannesburg in December.
- The [Equity Analyst Short Course](#) was requested as a bespoke offering by the Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC). The course was presented to LNDC equity portfolio analysts in Cape Town in December.
- The new Retirement Fund Trustee Education (RFTE) [CRISA 2](#) workshop was presented to 12 trustees and principal officers from various funds in December. The next CRISA 2 workshop has been scheduled for Thursday, 16 February 2023. Please enrol [here](#).
- In January, we presented four public [RFTE workshops](#) and one bespoke workshop for the Masakhane Provident Fund.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE SPOTLIGHT

- In March 2023, we will present our inaugural ASISA Academy [Compliance Masterclass](#), developed for experienced compliance professionals interested in sharpening their skills. The programme comprises a series of engaging three-hour online masterclasses for senior compliance professionals. Please enrol [here](#).
- Our two-hour interactive [online Sprints](#) cover a wide range of investment-related and Consumer Financial Literacy (CFE) topics. The [Investment Sprints](#) will be offered in April and May this year, as well as in August and September. We encourage you to enrol timeously by clicking on the links provided. Our Learning Calendar can also be found [here](#).
- Our popular [UCT Life Insurance Claims Assessors Short Course](#) was oversubscribed in 2022. We therefore decided to run it twice this year, as an online course starting in March and face-to-face in Johannesburg from July to October 2023. While the online course is already fully subscribed, we can still accommodate delegates on the Johannesburg course. Please visit our [website](#) for the dates and other relevant details.
- The next [Induction Course](#) for new retirement fund trustees starts on 9 February 2023. Delivered over four days, the two-and-a-half-hour online workshops provide an overview of the role, responsibilities, duties and functions of a trustee within the South African Retirement Fund Industry. This will assist new trustees in completing the mandatory Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA) Trustee Training Toolkit requirements.

For a complete overview of learning opportunities lined up for 2023, please visit the [ASISA Academy Learning Calendar](#).

LEARN WITH US IN 2023

The ASISA Academy is recognised as a Level 1 B-BBEE contributor, with more than 75% of the Academy's beneficiaries being black South Africans. This means employers can claim 135% of their skills development spend with the ASISA Academy. Please feel free to [contact us](#) to discuss how we can support your skills development requirements.

Please visit our [website](#) for more information on our many learning opportunities. We also invite you to interact with us on [LinkedIn](#).

Best wishes
Alicia Davids

ASISA Academy CEO